

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 208) encouraging the elimination of harmful fishing subsidies that contribute to overcapacity in the world's commercial fishing fleet and lead to the overfishing of global fish stocks.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I have come to the floor to discuss the overcapitalization of the world's fishing fleets, which is being fueled by the subsidies foreign governments direct to their fishing industries. The problems caused by these subsidies affect not only our global fisheries resources, but also the coastal communities which depend upon them. I introduced a Senate resolution condemning these subsidies and the unsustainable fishing practices they enable.

Fisheries resources—especially large predatory species and other commercially valuable fish stocks—have been overexploited by foreign industrial fishing fleets for years. As a result, these stocks have declined precipitously. In fact, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations estimates that one-quarter of global fish stocks are overexploited, depleted, or recovering from overexploitation.

To a significant extent, the decline of fisheries resources around the world is intensified by the outdated and mistaken assumption—still held by many nations—that our oceans' productivity is infinite and that fish stocks can be harvested without consequence.

In the United States, we know this is not the case. While we once used subsidies to increase our harvesting capacity, we have since eliminated this practice. Today, we have developed a fisheries management system which respects and conforms to the requirements of fisheries conservation. The Magnuson-Stevens Act, including the amendments added in January, continues to ensure our harvests are guided by science-based catch limits. These controls prevent overfishing and provide managers with the tools they need to limit entry and prevent overcapitalization.

Unfortunately, sustainable fishing policies are not the norm among all fishing nations. Many countries with subsidized industrial fishing fleets have sought to exploit not only their own waters, but also the high seas. Fisheries in international waters are largely unregulated, but even where international management bodies do exist, these damaging practices are carried out in defiance of international quotas and other harvest limits. Not surprisingly, those countries engaged in illegal, unregulated, and unreported—or "IUU" fishing—are often the same ones that use subsidies to expand their fleets.

These subsidies, and the IUU fishing associated with them, must end.

Today, the capacity of the global fishing fleet is far greater than what is needed to catch the oceans' sustainable level of production. Subsidies also create an uneven playing field among fish trading countries by masking the true cost of fishing. To the economic detriment of the U.S. and other nonsubsidizing nations, up to one-quarter of global fish trade is currently generated by subsidized fisheries. Ultimately, if nations are allowed to stay on this unsustainable path, fish stocks in the global ocean commons will be reduced even further.

The United States, with the support of other countries opposed to subsidies, is now leading an international initiative against harmful fisheries subsidies. Last month, the United States Trade Representative presented a proposal to the World Trade Organization which would eliminate this type of subsidy among WTO members. This proposal, being negotiated in the Doha Development Round, holds great promise for ending those subsidies which distort trade, weaken economic conditions in fishing communities, and lead to IUU fishing and other unsustainable harvesting practices.

This resolution condemns these harmful foreign fishing subsidies, and I urge each of my colleagues to give it their full support.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the preamble be agreed to; and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 208) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 208

Whereas 2.6 billion people in the world get at least 20 percent of their total dietary animal protein intake from fish;

Whereas the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has found that 25 percent of the world's fish population are currently overexploited, depleted, or recovering from overexploitation;

Whereas scientists have estimated that populations of many large predator fish such as tuna, marlin, and swordfish have been overfished by foreign industrial fishing fleets;

Whereas the global fishing fleet capacity is estimated to be considerably greater than is needed to catch what the ocean can sustainably produce;

Whereas the United States Congress recognized the threat of overfishing to our oceans and economy and therefore included the requirement to end overfishing in United States commercial fisheries by 2011 in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-479);

Whereas the United States Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission identified overcapitalization of the global commercial fishing fleets as a major contributor to the decline of economically important fish populations;

Whereas harmful foreign fishing subsidies encourage overcapitalization and over-

fishing, support destructive fishing practices that would not otherwise be economically viable, and amount to \$10 to \$15 billion annually, an amount equivalent to 20 to 25 percent of the global commercial trade in fish;

Whereas such subsidies have also been documented to support illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing, which impacts commercial fisheries in the United States and around the world both economically and ecologically;

Whereas harmful fishing subsidies are concentrated in relatively few countries, putting other fishing countries, including the United States, at an economic disadvantage;

Whereas the United States is a world leader in advancing policies to eliminate harmful fishing subsidies that support overcapacity and promote overfishing; and

Whereas members of the World Trade Organization, as part of the Doha Development Agenda (Doha Development Round), are engaged in historic negotiations to end harmful fishing subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the United States should continue to promote the elimination of harmful foreign fishing subsidies that promote overcapitalization, overfishing, and illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR NEW POWER-SHARING GOVERNMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 209.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 209) expressing support for the new power-sharing government in Northern Ireland.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am delighted to join Senators DODD, BIDEN, COLLINS, KERRY, MCCAIN, CLINTON, LEAHY, SMITH, SCHUMER and OBAMA in support of a Senate resolution commending the extraordinary success of achievement last week in the peace process in northern Ireland.

Ten days ago, on May 8, I was in Belfast to witness the dawn of a new day in the history of northern Ireland—a day that reaffirmed that peace is possible, even in the face of tragic history.

It was an honor to participate in a White House delegation to Belfast and to join Prime Minister Blair of Great Britain and Prime Minister Ahern of Ireland, who have been powerful forces for peace and reconciliation, as former foes in northern Ireland took the oath of office and agreed to share power on an equal basis.

This success could not have been achieved without the courage and determination of the political leaders of northern Ireland over many years in securing a new way forward and forming a new government that offers hope for a brighter future for all the people of that land and a healing of the terrible wounds of the past.

The courageous example of the people of northern Ireland, who have chosen peace and reconciliation, also offers a lesson of hope to other troubled areas of the world.

The resolution we are introducing expresses the strong support of the United States for the new power-sharing Government. It recognizes the contributions of British and Irish and American leaders whose efforts over the years have been indispensable in to the formation of the new Government and the achievement of lasting peace and stability in northern Ireland.

May 8 will long be remembered as a historic day for peace in northern Ireland. All friends of Ireland in the United States commend the First Minister of the new Government, Reverend Ian Paisley of the Democratic Unionist Party and the Deputy First Minister, Martin McGuinness of Sinn Féin for coming together in peace to begin this new era of hope for all the people of northern Ireland, and we wish them continuing success in meeting the challenges that lie ahead.

The United States stands ready to support their new Government. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 209) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 209

Whereas, on May 8, 2007, the Reverend Ian Paisley and Martin McGuinness became Northern Ireland's first minister and deputy first minister, marking the beginning of a new era of power-sharing;

Whereas Reverend Paisley, the Democratic Unionist leader, and Mr. McGuinness, the Sinn Féin negotiator, have put aside decades of conflict and moved towards historic reconciliation and unity in Northern Ireland;

Whereas, on May 8, 2007, Reverend Paisley declared, "I believe that Northern Ireland has come to a time of peace, a time when hate will no longer rule.";

Whereas Mr. McGuinness declared this new government to be "a fundamental change of

approach, with parties moving forward together to build a better future for the people that we represent";

Whereas British Prime Minister Tony Blair declared that "today marks not just the completion of the transition from conflict to peace, but also gives the most visible expression to the fundamental principle on which the peace process has been based. The acceptance that the future of Northern Ireland can only be governed successfully by both communities working together, equal before the law, equal in the mutual respect shown by all and equally committed both to sharing power and to securing peace. That is the only basis upon which true democracy can function and by which normal politics can at last after decades of violence and suffering come to this beautiful but troubled land.";

Whereas the Taoiseach of Ireland, Bertie Ahern, declared that "on this day, we mark the historic beginning of a new era for Northern Ireland. An era founded on peace and partnership. An era of new politics and new realities."; and

Whereas President George W. Bush, like his predecessor President William J. Clinton, has worked tirelessly to bring the parties in Northern Ireland together in support of fulfilling the promises of the Good Friday Accords.

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States stands strongly in support of the new power-sharing government in Northern Ireland;

(2) political leaders of Northern Ireland, Prime Minister Tony Blair, and Taoiseach Bertie Ahern should be commended for acting in the best interest of the people of Northern Ireland by forming the new power-sharing government;

(3) May 8, 2007, will be remembered as an historic day and an important milestone in cementing peace and unity for Northern Ireland and a shining example for nations around the world plagued by internal conflict and violence; and

(4) the United States stands ready to support this new government and to work with the people of Northern Ireland as they achieve their goal of lasting peace for those who reside in Northern Ireland.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MAY 21, 2007

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 1 p.m., Monday, May 21; that on Monday, following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired and

the time for the two leaders reserved for their use later in the day; that the Senate then resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1348, comprehensive immigration legislation; and Senator SESSIONS be recognized, as provided for under a previous order; that following Senator SESSIONS, the remaining time until 5:30 p.m., be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders, or their designees; provided further that at 5:30 p.m., without further intervening action or debate, the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MAY 21, 2007, AT 1 P.M.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:04 p.m., adjourned until Monday, May 21, 2007, at 1 p.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate Thursday, May 17, 2007:

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 271:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) CRAIG E. BONE, 0000
REAR ADM. (LH) ROBERT S. BRANHAM, 0000
REAR ADM. (LH) JOHN S. BURHOE, 0000
REAR ADM. (LH) RONALD T. HEWITT, 0000
REAR ADM. (LH) WAYNE E. JUSTICE, 0000
REAR ADM. (LH) DANIEL B. LLOYD, 0000
REAR ADM. (LH) JOSEPH L. NIMMICH, 0000
REAR ADM. (LH) ROBERT C. PARKER, 0000
REAR ADM. (LH) BRIAN M. SALERNO, 0000

THE ABOVE NOMINATIONS WERE APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEES' COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS COMMANDING GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY, WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 3036:

To be lieutenant general

L.T. GEN. ROBERT L. VAN ANTWERP, JR., 0000